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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8*
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme budget implications of draft recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. Under the terms of paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the draft report on programme 24, Management and support services (E/AC.51/2004/L.5/Add.27) the Committee for Programme and Coordination would:

Recommend that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixtieth session, and biennially thereafter, on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, including measures to increase efficiency and productivity, in the Secretariat (para. 10);

Recommend that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop a time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative processes and procedures, including a Secretariat-wide approach to streamline and automate them, and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on the plan and on the progress made in implementing it (para. 11);

* E/AC.51/2004/1.

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Recommend that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop improved tools for identifying the cost of activities and outputs and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on options for applying cost-accounting techniques drawing on best international practices (para. 12).

2. The activities to be carried out would relate to programme 24, Management and central support services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised (A/57/6/Rev.1), and section 29, Management and central support services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

3. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft recommendations, the programme of work under section 29, Management and central support services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 would be modified as follows:

Section 29A
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management

B. Programme of work

1. Management services

Paragraph 29 A.14

Under (a) (ii) Parliamentary documentation, add the following outputs:

"Report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, including measures to increase efficiency and productivity in the Secretariat; report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on a time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative processes and procedures, including a Secretariat-wide approach to streamline and automate the administrative processes and procedures;"

Section 29B
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

A. Executive direction and management

Paragraph 29B.16

Add the following activities and re-letter the existing entries accordingly:

(b) Parliamentary documentation: report of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on options for applying cost-accounting techniques drawing on best international practices;

(c) Other substantive services· feasibility study on scope of the requirements for developing improved tools for identifying the costs of activities and outputs;

4. As regards the reports recommended under paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft report, it has been estimated that they could be prepared from within existing resources allocated under section 29A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

5. The recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the draft report would call for a feasibility study to be undertaken by the Secretariat in 2005. This would require the employment of a consulting firm that specializes in cost-accounting. The scope of the study would be to analyse the available cost-accounting tools and their applicability for identifying and analysing the costs of the activities and outputs at the United Nations. The scope would also cover the need for the potential adaptation of existing multiple systems, including the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) and other existing systems for the provision of sustainable data, as well as the ongoing requirements for acquisition, implementation, management and continued maintenance of the cost-accounting system. The related resource requirements for the study are estimated to amount to $500,000. It has been estimated that the requirements of $500,000 would require supplementary funding to be provided for that purpose. Eventual implementations, which can prudently be estimated in the millions of dollars, cannot be reliably projected at this time in advance of the required feasibility study.

6. Should the Committee for Programme and Coordination decide to adopt the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of document E/AC.51/2004/L.5/Add.27, the Secretary-General would report the above programme budget implications to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in accordance with their respective rules of procedure, as appropriate.